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Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 March 2016, addressed to you by a representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mehmet Dânâ (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It has come to my attention that the Greek Cypriot representative, in his purported capacity as the representative of Cyprus, delivered a statement on 15 February 2016 during the open debate of the Security Council on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as a key element for the maintenance of international peace and security", in which you also participated.

Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot representative has once again raised false allegations regarding the Cyprus problem. At a time when the two sides on the island are expected to avoid blame games or other negative statements, such a one-sided presentation of the Cyprus problem is evidently not conducive to the settlement efforts.

The historical facts on the matter are unequivocally clear. The 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus collapsed in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot militia attacked the Turkish Cypriot people. Since then, all of the United Nations efforts aimed at a comprehensive settlement, including the Annan plan of 2004, have not produced a positive outcome as they were all rejected by the Greek Cypriot side.

The Turkish Cypriot side, on the other hand, has always stood on the side of a fair and just settlement on the island, which will take into consideration the legitimate rights and interests of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus. Turkey's support and Turkish Cypriots' acceptance of the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan of 2004 is yet another testament to this reality beyond any doubt.

As there was a reference in the above-mentioned statement to the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, to set the record straight, I deem it necessary to reiterate that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to the legitimate intervention of Guarantor Turkey as "invasion" and its subsequent presence on the island as "occupation". The fact of the matter is that the intervention of Turkey in 1974, which was conducted in line with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, was inevitable in the wake of a coup d'état carried out by the junta regime in Greece with the help of Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus, which sought to annex the island to Greece.

The Turkish Cypriot side is of the view that there is a unique window of opportunity in 2016 to finally bring the Cyprus problem to a close through a mutually acceptable settlement based on the Joint Statement of 11 February 2014, in particular, and on the established United Nations parameters on Cyprus, in general. The considerable progress achieved to date under the auspices of your mission of good offices is yet another indication that the remaining difficult issues can also be tackled successfully if political will and determination for a settlement prevail over all other considerations. During this critical juncture, it is crucial that the repetition of the old, archaic narrative, based on seeing the other as an opponent rather than a future partner, can only be counterproductive and should be avoided at all costs.

As the Turkish Cypriot side, we remain determined to focus on the task at hand, which is to find a comprehensive settlement with our Greek Cypriot partners

and to refrain from engaging in a blame game. A comprehensive settlement, no doubt, will enable us to realize the full potential of Cyprus, our common home, by enhancing cooperation, security and prosperity on the island and in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative